sons therefore and what will be the loss of excuse due to exchequer; and

(b) whether this will discriminate against public sector units who produce similar products or require similar status; and

(c) what was the special reason on obliging a private sector company by adopting a favourable pattern of assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The plant of M/s. Reliance Industries at Patalganga in Maharashtra has been declared as refinery for obtaining raw naptha at concessional rate of duty of Rs. 30 per kilo litre under Notification No. 75/84 dated 1.3.84 for manufacture of paraxylene. Refinery status had also been earlier granted to IPCL and BPCL. The declaration of a petrochemical complex as a refinery aims at keeping down the incidence of Central Excise duty and avoiding cascading effect of taxation so that the price of final product is reasonable. Since duty over and above Rs. 30 per kilo litre on raw naptha is exempted if used in the manufacture of paraxylene in a premises declared as refinery, there is no loss of revenue to the Government.

(b) No, Sir. Similar status has already been granted to Public sector units producing same product.

(c) No favourable pattern of assistance has been granted and hence the question of any obligation does not arise.

Fall in Purchasing Power of Rupee

3399. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to fall in purchasing power of rupee during the Seventh Plan Period the purchasing power of rural and urban poor has been effected, and if so, to what extent;

(b) what the percentage expenditure of rural and urban poor on food, clothing and essential commodities each year during the last three years;

(c) how much rural income has been transferred to urban area during the last three years due to adverse Terms of Trade in agriculture and manufacture; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to balance rural-urban Terms of Trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The purchasing power of the rupee measured as the reciprocal of the Consumer Price Index for Industrila Workers (Base 1960=100) declined from 17.06 paise in March, 1985 to 13.78 paise in March, 1988. The impact of the decline in purchasing power of rupee on living standards of different sections depends on the change that has taken place in their incomes.

(b) and (c) Information on consumption expenditure in rural and urban areas is collected by the National Sample Survey Organisation in their quin-quennial surveys. The latest available information relates to the year 1983. This is given in the annexed statement (*See* below) The data in respect of quin-quennium ending 1988 is still under processing. The information on inter-sectoral flow of incomes between rural and urban areas is not collected.

(d) The measures taken by the Government to maintain a balance in the rural-urban terms of trade include assuring remunerative prices to farmers for their products, which take into account the cost of non-agricultural inputs, and supply of essential inputs such as fertilizers, irrigation and power on a subsidised basis. Also agricultural incomes have been kept out of the net of income tax.

Statement

Per capita consumption during 1983 (8th round of NST)

(Rs. per month)

Items	Rural	%	Urban	%
Food	73.73	65.57	96.97	59.12
Clothing	9.66	8.59	12.52	7.63
Footwear	1.11	0.99	1.80	1.10
Fuel & Light	7.92	7.04	11.36	6.93
Durable goods	2.55	2.27	3.69	2.25
Total Expenditure	112.45	100.00	164.03	100.00

Demand for Raising the Price of Natural Rubber

3400. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ruling left Democratic Front and a delegation of opposition United Democratic Front in Kerala have submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister for increase in the minimum price of natural rubber and restrict the import of number of items which are grown in the State and also urged the Prime Minister to modify the import-export policy to remove the provisions which are inconsistant with the national policy; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) There have been representations for raising the price of natural rubber as also in respect of the current import policy for certain agricultural items grown in Kerala. Import of natural rubber is canalised through STC. Its import is made to meet the demand-supply gap and it is always the endeavour of the Government to limit imports to the extent necessary to meet this gap. Government considers revision of the price band for natural rubber on the basis of the variation in the factors taken into account for the fixation of the price band.

There have been representations in regard to coconut oil, copra, coir, pepper and certain spices. Except for spices—Cloves, Cinnamon/Cassia, Nutmeg and Mace, there has been no change in the import policy for other items. Import of the said spices was de-canalised having regard to the rise in prices and problems in import and distribution consequent on canalisation.

Unrest among Buddhist in Ladakh

3401. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of widespread unrest among